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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application) PATENT APPLICATION
)
Inventor(s): James F. Zucherman)
Ken Y. Hsu)
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Henry A. Klyce)
)
SC/Serial No.: Unknown)
)
Filed: Herewith)
)
Title: SPINE DISTRACTION IMPLANT)
)

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Matthew A. Mahling (Signature)
Matthew A. Mahling
Signature Date: December 28, 1999

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced continuation case, please amend the figures and the claims as follows:

In the Drawings:

- 5 Figs. 21, 22, and 37 in the parent application have been modified to include lines 380 in Figs. 21 and 22, and line 232 in Fig. 37. Attached hereto are substitute drawing pages for Figs. 21, 22 and 37, and an extra copy of the drawings with the changes indicated in red.